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effects. "But I repeat, he says that until men come to comprehend a natural cause for every natural effect they should be controlled in their attitude toward environment, including their brother men, by some code that will have the proper effect, however based that code may be." (p. 255.)

GEOLOGY.

The reconstruction of the Continents of Tertiary times is the topic discussed in a paper by W. D. Matthew.[1] Using the evidence furnished by the distribution of fossil and recent Mammals, he tries to reconstruct the outlines of the old land-masses, and illustrates his results by seven maps, which represent the geographical conditions of the earth's surface in Postcretaceous time (immediately after the close of the Cretaceous), in the middle Eocene, in the middle Oligocene, in the Miocene, in the Pliocene, in the early Pleistocene, and in recent times.

This paper undoubtedly marks an important progress in this branch of research. Comparing it with the last attempt to reconstruct the old continents, made by Ortmann in 1902 (Pr. Amer. Philos. Soc. **41**), we see that here only two maps were given, for the lower and for the upper Tertiary period. Neither agrees entirely with any one of Matthew's maps, although the one for the lower Tertiary corresponds rather closely to the middle Eocene map, and the one for the upper Tertiary to that of the Miocene. But complete agreement cannot be expected, considering the extreme difficulties with which such investigations are connected. Indeed, it is rather surprising that Matthew's studies, in many points, have led to results, which largely indorse the views held by Ortmann, and furnish additional support for many of the accepted features of ancient geography.

Studies of this kind are often regarded as rather phantastic and without sufficient support to render the conclusions trustworthy enough to give them universal recognition. But Matthew's paper again demonstrates that it *is* possible to express definite views as to the shape, the connections and disconnections of the continents, chiefly in Tertiary times, and the agreement of the zoogeographical facts with paleontology and geology tends to show, that these reconstructions of the old continents are not merely wild speculations. However, the results cannot yet be accepted as final, and although some of the major features of old geography must be regarded as well established, much remains to be done in detail. Chief of all, additional groups of animals should be studied, and an attempt should be made to correlate the results obtained by them with those of Ortmann and Matthew; and further, attention should also be paid to the Mesozoic, and if possible, Paleozoic times. It is to be hoped that, for instance, the distribution of certain molluscs and lower vertebrates may furnish evidence with regard to these ages, although it is only natural that this task will be much more difficult, since the facts are very scanty, and their meaning is largely obscured by the changes in subsequent times.

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[1] Matthew, W. D. Hypothetical Outlines of the Continents in Tertiary times. (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., **22**, 1906, p. 353–383. 7 maps).

A. E. O.

The Mountains of Cape Colony.— In the Cape Colony, southern Africa, are ranges of folded mountains very similar to the Alleghenies of the eastern United States. During the summer of 1905 Professor Davis had an opportunity to study the Cape Colony ranges while a guest of the British Association for the Advancement of Science during its South African meeting, and in this paper[1] has given a most interesting account of the ranges, comparing them with the Allegheny type. The paper will be of more than usual interest to American geologists and geographers, because of the striking similarity, in practically all essential features, of the two widely separated mountain groups, whether compared as to structure, the relation of folded areas to undisturbed plateaus, the erosion history and development of drainage adjustments, or the control exerted by the physiographic features upon transportation, etc. In climate, however, a marked contrast between the two localities exists. The paper is illustrated by a number of drawings and photographs.

D. W. J.

Natural Mounds.[2]— During the last two years a number of papers have been published describing and attempting to explain the origin of the natural mounds occurring in different parts of the country.

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[1] The Mountains of Southernmost Africa. By W. M. Davis. Bulletin American Geographical Society, Vol. **38**, 593–623, 1906.

[2] Natural Mounds. By Marius R. Campbell. Journal of Geology, Vol. **14**, 708–717, 1906.